

Notice of Workshop Process

To: All parties of Docket No. 05-0159 and Docket Nos. 05-0160/05-0161/05-0162
(Consolidated)

Date: April 5, 2006

From: Eric Schlaf
Energy Division
Illinois Commerce Commission

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In its Orders in Docket No. 05-0159 and Docket Nos. 05-0160/05-0161/05-0162 (Consolidated), the Illinois Commerce Commission ("Commission") ordered the initiation of a workshop process to evaluate the status of retail competition. Specifically, the Commission stated:

...The Commission agrees that it should initiate a collaborative workshop to evaluate the status of retail competition within Illinois. To that end, a Retail Competition Workshop will be convened within 60 days of the issuance of this Order. The Workshop will have two phases. The first phase of the Workshop will focus on developing a working definition of retail competition, with particular focus on residential and small commercial customers. At the conclusion of that phase, within two months, Staff should report the findings of the workshop to the Commission. Upon the Commission's acceptance of a definition for retail competition, the second phase of the Workshops shall begin to determine the most appropriate way to reach the desired outcome. Staff shall make the recommendations from the Workshop participants to the Commission no later than December 2006. (Order, Docket No. 05-0159, p. 154; Order, Docket No. 05-0160/05-0161/05-0162 (Consolidated), p. 158)

Staff is sending this Notice of Workshop Process to the service lists of Docket No. 05-0159 and Docket Nos. 05-0160/05-0161/05-0162 (Consolidated) to initiate the workshop process. Staff's preference is to conduct the initial phase of the process primarily through the exchange of documents over e-mail, with follow-up conference calls, as needed. In-person meetings can be arranged if there is a preference for such meetings.

The first task for the Workshop participants is to develop “a working definition of retail competition, with particular focus on residential and small commercial customers.” The following is an initial draft proposed definition, presented for discussion purposes:

Retail Competition: The ability of retail electric customers to choose whether to purchase their electricity supply from either the local electric utility or from an alternative retail electric supplier. The amount of competitive retail activity is maximized when all identified barriers to wholesale and retail competition have been eliminated.

For the first phase of the Retail Competition Workshop, Staff requests the following:

1. Please comment on the draft proposed definition and feel free to offer an alternative definition. The goal is to develop a consensus definition. It is intended that all comments will be publicly available, probably through posting on the ICC web site. Please send your comments by **April 21th, 2006**.
2. Please provide a list of topics that future workshops should address. Please provide suggestions as to how these topics should be addressed (i.e. in-person workshops, conference calls, etc.).
3. Please send your comments and/or alternative definition to the following: Eric Schlaf, at e-mail address: eschlaf@icc.illinois.gov
4. Staff will create a separate e-mail list for the Workshop process. Thus, future e-mails on this subject will be sent only to the Workshop e-mail list.
5. Even if your organization does not wish to send comments, please feel free to request inclusion on the e-mail list.

Thank You,

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